

Application Serial No.: 10/533,939
Amdt. Dated: June 9, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 10, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated January 10, 2008 has been carefully considered. In response to the Office Action, Applicant has amended the Specification and Claims 1, 10 and 12, canceled Claims 14-16, and added new Claim 17 which, when considered with the remarks set forth below, are deemed to place the case with Claims 1-13 and 17 in condition for allowance.

Specification Objection

In the Office Action, the disclosure has been objected to because of references to the claim numbers. In response, Applicant has amended the Specification to delete the references to the claim numbers, and to substitute instead the subject matter of the claims. Accordingly, it is believed that the objection to the Specification has been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §§102 and 103

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,647,274 to Oda. Specifically, the Examiner states that the Oda patent teaches a molding apparatus including a male and female mold part, wherein one of the mold parts is movable between an open and closed position to form mold cavities having different sizes. The Examiner admits that the purpose and sequence of the Oda mold is different than that of the claimed invention, but states that the intended purpose or use of an apparatus in and of itself is not patentable.

Claims 4-5, 9-11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Oda patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,225,213 to Brown et al. Specifically, the Examiner states that the Brown patent discloses upper and lower mold plates having frustoconical shapes to form cup shaped products. The Examiner further states that the Brown

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patent discloses a stripper ring (112) operable by a spring (124). Accordingly, the Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to combine the mold of Brown with the mold of Oda.

In response, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to define a mold including a first and a second mold half moveable relative to each other and a mold cavity defined by a female part and a matching male part, wherein the male part and the first mold half define a first pressure chamber and/or the female part and the second mold half define a second pressure chamber. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited prior art references, taken alone or combined, discloses a first pressure chamber formed by a male part and a first mold half or a second pressure chamber formed by a female part and a second mold half, as defined in amended Claim 1.

Instead, the Oda patent only discloses two mold parts (11, 12) that are movable with respect to each other. The Oda patent does not teach or suggest a mold including a first and a second mold half moveable relative to each other and a mold cavity defined by a female part and a matching male part, wherein the male part and the first mold half define a first pressure chamber and/or the female part and the second mold half define a second pressure chamber, as defined in amended Claim 1.

Similarly, the Brown patent does not teach or suggest a first pressure chamber formed by a male part and a first mold half or a second pressure chamber formed by a female part and a second mold half, as defined in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1, and the claims that depend therefrom, patentably distinguish over the prior art.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of the application with Claims 1-13 and 17 are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would assist in moving the application toward allowance, he is respectfully invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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